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NEW LONDON, CONN.



# GARBAGE GAZETTE

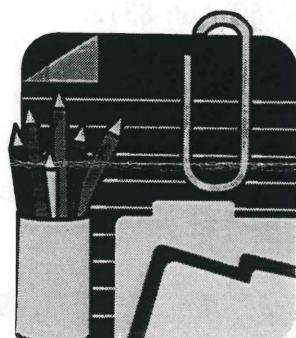
**Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection**

**Volume 16, No. 2**

**February, 1997**

## **Buy Recycled Seminars for Business**

Learning how to purchase recycled content products will be the focus of two Buy Recycled seminars scheduled for April 8 and 9, 1997. The half-day seminars will feature training from Bonnie Fedchock of the National Recycling Coalition's Buy Recycled Business Alliance. Participants will learn how to spec recycled products and be able to meet with vendors of recycled products. A 27" television will be given away as a door prize at each seminar. The seminars are co-sponsored by the CT Business Environmental Council, CT DEP Recycling Program, Corporate Express, and the National Recycling Coalition's Buy Recycled Business Alliance. The seminars will be held from 8:30 - noon at two locations: the Keeney Memorial Center, Wethersfield, on April 8 and at Pitney Bowes, Stamford, on April 9. There is no admission charge, but we request that you pre-register. For more information, please contact Willie or Barbara at 860-424-3365.



## **Government Purchase of Recycled Products**

An intensive day of training on buying recycled products, specifically aimed at public sector purchasing managers, has been scheduled for April 2, 1997, at the Hartford Sheraton. The seminar is co-sponsored by US EPA New England and the US Conference of Mayors. Topics covered will include: state and local laws, organizational commitment, cooperative purchasing, federal programs and national standards, along with recycled product information. The seminar will take place from 8:30 - 3:30 and includes lunch for a cost of \$35 per attendee. For more information, please contact Richard Cochran of the US Conference of Mayors (202-822-9058) or Joseph DeCola of US EPA (617-565-3276).

## **Best Management Practices for Grass Clipping Management**

Last year, the DEP developed a draft guidance document to help municipalities and private compost site operators understand some of the choices available to them for grass clipping management. These best management practices (BMP) include grasscycling, home composting, agricultural practices, and criteria for the addition of grass clippings to large-scale leaf composting facilities. Since the last option poses the most challenge both operationally and environmentally, DEP chose four leaf composting sites to test this section of the BMP. Over the course of the 1996 growing season, these pilot sites followed the guidance to the best of their ability and provided feedback through site visits, progress reports and meetings. In general, all four sites were able to handle the quantity of grass received through drop-off by residents and landscapers. Each site had enough leaves from the previous year to blend with the grass in the recommended 1:3 (grass:leaves) ratio. Operators did observe that grass which was left in a stockpile was odorous when subsequently moved, and that some loads of grass smelled upon delivery to the site. In both circumstances, when the grass was mixed with leaves, the odor dissipated.

In order to gather more information, the DEP would like to add two or three sites and continue the pilot through the 1997 growing season. Any municipal or private operator of a registered leaf composting site who would be willing to follow the BMP and provide feedback is invited to contact K.C. Alexander at 424-3365 to discuss whether your site can be included.

### **Alternatives to Waste Disposal Conference - New Date and Location**

The conference planned for this spring on alternatives to waste disposal has found a new location and date due to scheduling problems at the previous facility. The conference will be held on May 21, 1997, at the Connecticut Fire Training Academy in Windsor Locks near Bradley Airport. The conference will cover many topics including: hard-to-handle materials (batteries, flourescent lamps, and paints), household hazardous waste, solid waste issues for public works officials, making your recycling program more efficient, pay-by-the-bag trash collection, proper handling of chemicals, and source reduction/pollution prevention for town facilities and schools. If you would like to receive a conference brochure or for more information, please call Barbara or Willie at 860-424-3365.

### **Waste Exchange Provides Options for Businesses**

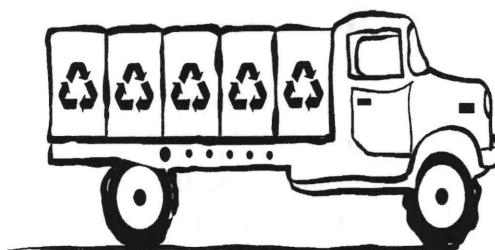
A waste exchange to provide businesses with an alternative to disposal has been operating successfully through the Connecticut Business Environmental Council. This service allows businesses with materials they no longer need to scan a listing of businesses and the materials that they are seeking and sometimes find a match. The waste exchange provides the listing, and the companies make their own arrangements for transfer of materials. This waste exchange listing is found in the quarterly newsletter of the Greater Bristol Chamber of Commerce. If you would like more information, please contact Joyce Boncal at (860) 666-8312.

## **Upcoming Meetings**

*Composting with Worms - a workshop for adults*, March 6, 1997, 7 - 8:30 pm at the Kellogg Environmental Center. Registration is required, please call (203-734-2513).

*16th Annual Northeast Resource Recovery Conference and Exposition*, June 2-3, 1997, Burlington, VT. For more information, contact (603) 224-6996.

**It's Spring!**



**Rev up to recycle....**



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